

Zane Talks About Her Painful Divorce and the Joy of Starting Over

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to Love Myself"

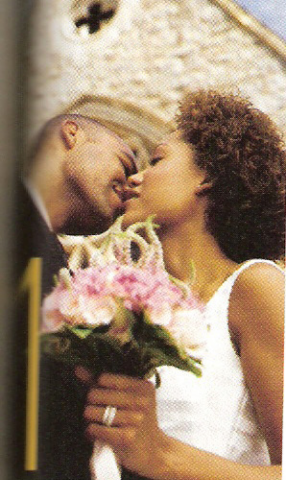
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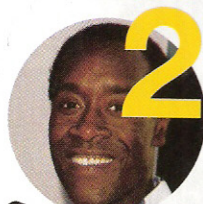
OUR NEWS

What Matters in Our Community



1 Carrying for Money

Wear organizers of *Marry Me Baby Daddy Day* lured brides down the aisle with an expenses-paid wedding. Now the press is paying unwed partners to tie the knot. The program promises couples' savings up to \$10,000. But some critics say they can't buy happiness.



2

A Shoe for the Cause

Hotel Rwanda star Don Cheadle wants to stomp out genocide in Sudan. The actor designed a limited-edition Timberland boot with the words *Stomp Out Genocide* on its sole. The boots, presented to activists, aren't for sale, but you can buy "Save Darfur" shirts and boot tags at timberland.com. Profits go to aid Sudan.



TEN THINGS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT

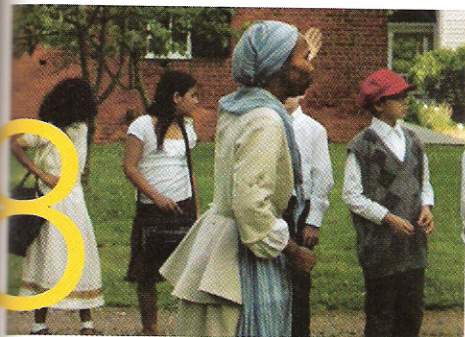
3 What's in a Name?

"The word *Negro* is a perfectly good, strong word. I don't see anything wrong with it."

—Cranky *60 Minutes* correspondent Andy Rooney on his distaste for the term African-American on *Imus in the Morning*

"Andy Rooney may prefer the word *Negro*, but as it pertains to Andy Rooney, I prefer the word *retire*."

—Harvard law professor Charles Ogletree with the comeback of the year

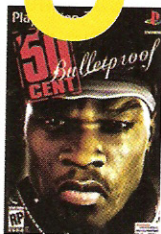


4 Wanted: Happy Slaves

Last summer Historic Brattonsville, a historic site in McConells, South Carolina, had a revolt on its hands: Several volunteers who played slaves in plantation-life reenactments quit, saying their characters were too happy. Local Black historians helped managers tweak the script. The production now includes the grim realities of slavery.

5 Game Over

50 Cent: Bulletproof, the rapper's new video game in which players take part in shoot-outs and rob their victims' bodies, is rated M for mature. But Fiddy sees no reason for parents to be skittish about their kids playing the game. "Explain to them what they're playing," he says.

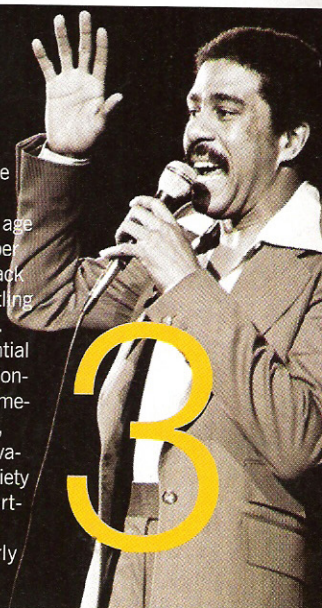


6 Sick and Tired

California legislators recently passed a bill that aims to lower HIV-infection rates among African-Americans by creating a clearinghouse of HIV research for Blacks. There's one problem—no financial backing. "It's a disgrace that if you want good health, you've got to raise your own money," says assemblyman Mervyn Dymally, who's working to find funding.

7 Rest in Peace, Richard

Heaven got a little funnier when Richard Pryor, at age 65, died December 10 of a heart attack after years of battling multiple sclerosis. The highly influential performer revolutionized American comedy with his brash, unflinching observations on race, society and his own shortcomings. He appeared in nearly 40 films.



8 School Daze

20,000 The number of Black students in Pinellas County, Florida, in a class-action suit against the school district. Parents blame the district for the achievement gap between Black and White students. Last year about 30 percent of Blacks were proficient in reading, compared with 63 percent of Whites. The district blames societal factors, like poverty.

9 Tattletale

Lil' Kim got jail time after she covered for friends involved in a shooting, and others may be following her lead. The hot trend in Boston, Baltimore and Pittsburgh is shirts with the slogan "Stop Snitchin'." Intended to keep people from talking to police, the shirt even made a cameo in a Pennsylvania courtroom. One witness was thrown out because he wore it when called to testify.



10 Say It Three Times Fast

"Fo God mek de wol de Wod been dey. De Wod been dey wid God and de Wod been God."

The entire New Testament (including this passage from John 1:1) was recently translated into Gullah, a Creole dialect spoken by descendants of enslaved Africans along the islands of the southeast coast, in an ongoing effort to preserve the culture.

BY CYNTHIA GORDY